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VOL. I.

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OFFICIAL NOTICE

To all Agricultural Societies organized, or applying for organization, under the Act for Encouragement of Agriculture.

At a meeting of the Board of Agriculture, held in the New Province Building, Halifax, on 1st October, 1869, it was—

*Resolved*—That all Agricultural Societies, desiring to participate in the grant for the present year, be required to send in the necessary returns, duly attested, to the Secretary of the Board, *not later than Monday, 15th November.*

Copies of the Amended Act and all other information may be obtained on application to the Secretary.

By order of the Board,

GEO. LAWSON, *Sec'y.*

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

*Halifax, Oct. 1, 1869.*

The regular half-yearly meeting of the Central Board of Agriculture was held in the New Province Building. There was a large attendance of members from nearly all parts of the Province, viz.:

The Hon. Alex. McFarlane, Wallace, Chairman; J. B. Calkin, Esq., Principal of the Normal School, Truro; Henry

Davenport, Esq., Sydney, C.B.; Sheriff Harris, Pictou; Avarid Longley, Esq., Paradise, Annapolis; Hon. J. Mackinnon, Antigonishe; Hon. R. A. McHefsey, Windsor; George C. Lawrence, Esq., Port Hood; Dr. C. C. Hamilton, Canard; H. Yeomans, Esq.; William Cunard, Esq., T. H. Rand, Esq., Superintendent of Education; Joseph J. Northup, Esq., and Professor Lawson, Secretary.

Minutes of previous meetings having been read and approved of, it was moved by Dr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Longley, and resolved, that a Committee be appointed to wait upon the Members of the Government for the purpose of ascertaining what amount of support would be continued to the Board, to enable them to carry out the provisions of the Act for the Encouragement of Agriculture. The Committee to consist of the Hon. Mr. McFarlane, Dr. Hamilton, Mr. Cunard, Mr. Northup, and Dr. Lawson.

Whilst the Board were engaged in routine work, the Committee left the meeting, and had an interview with the Government. On returning, the Chairman reported that the Government had expressed a decided desire that the Agricultural Organization should be sustained as efficiently as heretofore; that it was

necessary the Board should use the balance in hand to meet the customary grants to Agricultural Societies for the present year, but as that balance would not of itself be sufficient, the Government would at any time honor the drafts of the Board to the extent of two thousand dollars. It was likewise stated that the usual sum of six thousand dollars for Agriculture would be put upon the estimates next year, and the influence of the Government used to pass it. The Board, therefore, and the various Agricultural Societies throughout the Province, had every reasonable guarantee for carrying on their operations as hitherto.

GRANTS TO AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

It was resolved that all Agricultural Societies throughout the Province, desiring to participate in the grant for the present year, be required to send in the necessary returns, duly attested, to the Secretary of the Board, *not later than Monday, 15th November.*

On motion of Mr. Longley, seconded by Dr. Hamilton, it was agreed that after the end of the present year no new Society shall be entitled to qualify for drawing any portion of the Legislative grant unless three months' notice has been

given of the intention to form such Society; and where there already exist four or more Societies in the same County, no extra Society shall be formed without the permission and approval of the Board.

#### WINTER WHEAT.

Dr. Hamilton placed upon the table an excellent sample of winter wheat raised by him in Cornwallis this season, from some of the grain obtained by the Board as a present from the Canada Company. It was likewise stated by several members of the Board that the Fyfe wheat, of which large quantities had been distributed during the past two years, had turned out remarkably well, and that the crop this season was all that could be desired. The Russian wheat has grown very well and ripened early, but is to some extent affected with rust. The Horse Beans introduced by the Board have this season yielded heavy crops.

#### VISIT TO THE OAKLANDS DAIRY FARM.

After the meeting the members of the Board, by the kind invitation of William Cunard, Esq., visited Oaklands, and spent some time in inspecting the improvements that have been recently introduced by the spirited proprietor. The party visited the celebrated herd of Alderneys, and were no less gratified by the fine appearance of this beautiful stock, than by the excellent quality of the butter which was being made in the Dairy from their rich cream. The animals are being fed on green corn, which Mr. Cunard raises in large quantities, and thus obtains enormous dairy returns in a dry fall like the present, when the cows of many of our farmers are starving for want of pasture. The special object of interest was a Convertible Plough recently imported from England; it was made by Messrs. Ransomes & Co., of Ipswich, and can be used as a plough or as a potato digger. Horses were soon yoked, and various members of the Board engaged in agricultural operations, ploughing, and potato lifting, for the purpose of testing the implement. Its operations in potato lifting were particularly admired, for it was at once obvious that the improvement would be a great labour-saver. The members of the Board, after inspecting the agricultural departments, the horses and pig pens, where there were some fine porkers of Berkshire and Suffolk blood—proceeded to regale the senses in the splendid Conservatories and Grape Houses. A large new VINERY was erected last fall, about 120 feet long by 25 feet wide; it is a lofty and most elegant structure, every improvement has been introduced, and the Vines, although quite young, have already made rapid and healthy growth.

In another Vinery, the Black Hamburgs and White Muscats were pro-

nounced "most excellent," after a fair trial. In the Conservatories and Greenhouses, C. mellias were already coming into bloom, the Stephanotis floribunda had large masses of its sweet snowy blossoms. The Wax Plant, *Hoya carnosa*, was likewise in flower, the *Abutilon striatum* nearly gone. One of the Sikkim Rhododendrons is growing into a fine specimen; there were several *Altingias* and *Cypresses*,—and in the Flower Garden which lies under the drawing room windows, there was a perfect mass of blossom and parti-coloured foliage. The building of fine houses is an evidence of advancement in civilization; but, as Lord Bacon said long ago, to farm and garden finely is a greater perfection.

#### ADJOURNED MEETING.

*New Province Building,*  
October 2, 1869.

An adjourned meeting of the Board of Agriculture was held this forenoon in the new Province Building,—the Hon. Alex. Macfarlane, President, in the chair.

The minutes of yesterday's meeting were read and approved of, and in accordance therewith the following gentlemen were named a committee to superintend the distribution of money grants to agricultural societies throughout the province, viz.: Hon. Alex. Macfarlane, Hon. R. A. McHefey, W. Cunard, Esq., Joseph J. Northup, Esq., T. H. Rand, Esq., H. Yeomans, Esq., and Dr. Lawson, Secretary.

Various other matters of detail were arranged.

#### AGRICULTURAL BONE MILL.

It was announced that the bone mill established at Halifax, under the auspices of the Board, continued in active operation, and was being conducted by Mr. Stanford in a highly satisfactory manner. Large quantities of ground bones of various qualities are now on hand, and may be obtained by the farmers, at reasonable prices.

#### WHEAT CULTURE.

The members of the Board were engaged for some time in conversation on the subject of the result of the grain importations that had been made during the last few years by the Board,—the result of which seemed to be that of all the varieties of wheat tried—the Fyfe wheat, of which about a thousand bushels have been distributed and sown in the province, is the best adopted for our soils and climate.

In accordance with a suggestion of the Hon. Mr. Wilkins, Attorney General, the Secretary was directed to enter into correspondence with the Imperial authorities at St. Petersburg, with the view of obtaining additional information respecting the varieties of wheat grown in northern Russia.

#### HINTS FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER.

(Abridged from the *Gardener's Monthly*.)  
FLOWER GARDEN AND PLEASURE GROUND.

At present, one person's garden is too much a copy of another, where the style of massing with colored leaves prevails. Two very good silver-leaved plants of this season's introduction are *Centaurea gymnocarpa*, which has leaves very much like the old "Miller's Geranium" (*Cinéraires maritima*); as it does not grow so tall as that it is better adapted to some forms of masses. The other is a white leaved, woody but trailing gnaphalium also called *gymnocarpum*, but we suspect wrongly named. The large variegated Periwinkle is not much in use, though not amongst the least valuable by any means. It is a good season to think of these things; as wherever this kind of gardening is to be done, six months is little enough to get the plants ready in.

We think ornamental vines have been too much overlooked in the summer decoration of grounds. We have seen this summer some remarkably pretty effects from the hybrid *Nasturtiums*, *Cypress vine*, *Maurandia*, and other summer vines. There are several new "morning glories" of various colors, of which pretty groups could be made; but as these are mostly closed before nine o'clock, they are of no use to city ladies, but are charmingly sweet things for the country girls, who always have the best of everything in life, though not always thinking so.—These vines could be arranged on fancy figures, or according to colors, and certainly the effects in some parts of the ground would be as striking as that derived from leaf plants.

Planting of spring bulbs, tulips, hyacinths, crocus, snowdrops, fritillarias, lilies, &c., and the transplanting of shrubs, and division of herbaceous plants, will occupy chief attention in October. All herbaceous plants are much better for being protected through winter by a covering of dry leaves, on which a little soil is thrown to keep the leaves from blowing away. Half-hardy roses and vines may be protected in the same way. When they are very long and slender, they are taken down from their trellises, and coiled into circles as small as may be, without risk of breaking them, and then the soil put on. Those things that grow late, such as many kinds of *Noisette* roses, should have their immature top shoots shortened a few weeks before the protecting process is commenced. The wound will then heal over, and not cause the decay of the upper portion of the shoots, as is very often the case when they are either cut at laying down, or not shortened at all.

Of course, those roots that suffer by frost should be taken up before danger.

Gladiolus, Madeira vines, dahlias, tuberose, &c., for instance.

Tree seeds should be either sown or prepared for sowing in the fall. Hard shell seeds require time to soften their coats, or they will lie over a year in the ground. It used to be popular to mix with boxes of sand; but unless there be very few seeds to a very large quantity of sand, the heat given out though perhaps imperceptible to us, is sufficient to generate fungus which will destroy the seed. It is much better to soak the seeds in water, and then dry just enough to keep from moulding, and as cool as possible all winter. This is a much safer plan than sand. In States where the frosts are severe, seedlings of all kinds that have not attained a greater height than six inches, should be taken up, "laid in" in a sheltered place thickly, and covered with anything that will keep frozen through the winter. If left out, they are liable to be drawn out and destroyed. Young seedling stock received from a distance, should be also so treated. Evergreens may be struck at this season, if protected by greenhouses or frames. Where these are at hand, evergreens may be put in, in boxes or pans all through the winter.

#### GREENHOUSE.

The taste for cut flowers is considerably increasing, and one of the greatest demands on a greenhouse in winter, is from the best half of the head of the household for room and table decorations. Beautiful specimen plants are not so highly valued as those which will afford plenty of bloom for cutting. The various kinds of zonal geraniums are very good for this purpose. The following also comprises very useful plants for this purpose: Bouvardia leiantha, Calla Æthiopica, Cestrum aurantiacum, Halorhamnus elegans, Chorizema varium, Chinese Primroses, especially the double white, Daphne indica, Poinsettia pulcherrima, Euphorbia splendens, Heliotrope, Mignonette, Sweet alyssum, Catalonian jasmine, Yellow jasmine, Mahernia odorata, Stevia serrata, Violets, Roses, Cinerarias, and Brompton stocks. Tuberose that flower late may be carefully taken up and potted, and will last till over Christmas; and many things may be taken out of the ground and slightly forced. The common white Lily is good for this purpose, also Deutzias, Piladelphuses, and Tamarix. The common green Euonymus japonicus is also worth potting to make a lively green for mixing with other things.

In taking up things from the ground for potting, care should be taken to have the pots well drained, with pieces of potsherds over the whole. The more rapidly water passes through the soil the better plants will grow. Pots could be made without holes, and the water would all go through the porous sides in time; but

that is too slow a way, so we make a hole to admit of its more rapid escape, and we place the broken pots over the hole to make a vacuum, which assists the objects of the hole. In very small pots, or with plants which have strong enough roots to rapidly absorb all the moisture they get, and speedily ask for more, "crocking" is not necessary.

There are but few things in the greenhouse that will require special treatment as this time. Camellias and Azaleas, as they cease to grow, will require less water; but it is now so well known that moisture is favorable to growth, and comparative dryness favorable to flowering, that we need do no more than refer to the fact.

Bulbs for flowering in pots should be placed at once. Four or five inch pots are suitable. One Hyacinth and about three Tulips are sufficient for each. After potting, plunge the pots over their rims in sand under the greenhouse stage, letting them remain there until the pots have become well filled with roots, before bringing them on to the shelves to force.

#### VEGETABLE GARDEN.

Broccoli and Endive may be taken up with balls of earth, and set in cool cellars closely together, and they will grow sufficiently—the former to produce good heads and the latter to blanch beautifully all through the winter.

Asparagus beds should be cleaned, by having the old stems cut off and the soils from the alley ways dug out and thrown over beds. It keeps the frost from the roots, and thus permits them to grow and lay up matter all winter for next spring's growth. Very early in spring the soil should be raked back into the alleys, so as to leave the roots but a few inches under the soil, as the nearer they are then to the sun's rays the earlier will the crop be.

Celery must have continued attention to blanching as it grows, care being exercised to prevent the soil from entering the heart. Where very fine results are desired, the plants should be protected from early severe frosts, so as to enable the plants to grow without injury as long as possible.

Roots of most kinds, such as Carrots, Beets, &c., should be taken up before the frost is severe. They all keep best packed in sand in the open air, but it is too inconvenient to get at them in winter; hence cellars are employed to preserve them in. Cellars for this purpose should be cool, say with temperature of about 45°, and not at all dry. It is not meant that it should be damp, as the roots will become rotten, but it must be moist enough to prevent shrivelling.

#### FRUIT GARDEN.

We may perhaps repeat the advice to plant considerably more fruit trees toge-

ther on the same space of ground than is usually done, even though some have to be cut away in time. This should especially be in the case where parties prefer to keep the surface soil clear, as the intense heat reflected from bare soil is one of the great sources of disease in young trees. It might be well to introduce nurse trees into orchards, to obviate this somewhat. Alders, Poplars or Willows, might we think, be used to advantage, of course, cutting them away before they grow large enough to interfere with the roots of the fruit trees. A dry warm bottom, but cool surface, is of the highest importance to fruit growing.

#### THE NEW BRUNSWICK AGRICULTURAL SHOW.

The York County Agricultural Society held its Show and Fair on 13th October, of which a full account is given in the *Colonial Farmer*, from which we extract such particulars as are likely to be of interest to our farmers.

The exhibition of Field and Garden products, as well as the produce of the dairy, was very good. Of stock the show was not very large. Domestic manufactures were only limited. The late storm prevented many farmers from being present, and largely reduced the exhibits.

The whole number of entries was 508.

The horses on the ground, though very good, were not equal to some that have been exhibited. There were one or two very fine stallions and several colts that give promise of becoming excellent animals.

Of neat cattle the entries were of excellent quality, consisting principally of Devons and Ayrshires. Of the former Samuel Flemming exhibited a three year old bull, five cows and a heifer calf; and James Johnson a Devon bull; of the Ayrshires there were a fine Ayrshire bull, two heifers and two cows, belonging to Robert Grey, and one grade Ayrshire, two year old, belonging to E. Leary. Of short horns, there was a very fine cow, belonging to Patrick Kirlin, and a grade bull, three year old, the property of P. McFarlane.

Of Pigs, Charles Brown, of Mauder-ville, showed some fine specimens. His entry consisted of a boar, a sow and three pigs, pure Berkshire, imported by the Sunbury Agricultural Society fall before last, from Col. Dennison, Toronto. Mr. Fleming's fine large Chester Sow would have been conspicuous in a much larger display. The other animals were good, but the entries, with the exceptions named, were neither so numerous nor of so high a standard as on previous occasions.

The Sheep were fully up to the mark. Indeed, it is plain, says the report, that

the breed of sheep in York and Sunbury is fast becoming what it should be. This is the natural result of careful breeding. Stanley, which a few years ago had no sheep worth exhibiting, comes to the front this year with a splendid array of Leicesters, that would gladden the heart of any stock raiser anywhere. A shearling pure bred Cotswold ram was shown. The other pure bred animals were, including those from Stanley, a shearling Cotswold, belonging to E. Simonds, and a shearling ram, long wool, belonging to W. McGee, Manguerville.

Leaving the Stock Yard, and entering the Skating Rink, which this year serves as an Exhibition building, and a fine one it makes, a very pleasing display meets the eye. Around the sides are tables laden with the produce of the garden, the field, the loom and the dairy; while in the centre the samples of our factories occupy a conspicuous position. First, a lot of dressed flax and linen yarn, which looks well, and sets us trying to imagine why there is only one entry. Flax can be grown in York county as easily as oats. In the whole of Madawaska you will scarcely find a farm without its field of flax, and Victoria is no better adapted for its growth than York. Our farmers should raise more flax and make more linen.

The display of Garden Produce next attracts attention. Among the roots, the mangolds and turnips are particularly noticeable, and as we look at them we feel that the "force of nature could no farther go." The carrots, of which numerous specimens were shown, are excellent; the potatoes first rate, especially considering the havoc made in some places by the rust. The Bradley reds appear to be the favorites, and no wonder, for they are large and dry, yield well, and are generally safe from the rust. Among other things we noticed some fine celery, better than we had ever seen before; some excellent musk melons, some good Hubbard and Marrow squashes; and on Mr. Kenney's table, some splendid marble-head cabbages, cauliflower, and large white cucumber. On both tables were some very large peppers, and excellent salsify. Among the beans, was a variety known as the California, raised by Mr. Kenney, and the first shown in Fredericton. Dr. Brooke showed some fine squashes, one of which weighed 110½ lbs.

Of Fruit, there was a considerable display. Mr. Camber's assortment consisted of the Beauty of Kent, York Pippin, Garden Sweet, Camber's Seedling, Cooking Seedling, Sour York, Brunswick Pippin, and Bishop's Pippin. Mr. McGibbon's varieties were—the New Brunswick, Pomme Grise, Talman's Sweet, Hallit's White, Red Astrachan, Ribston Pippin, Fameuse, Danver's Winter Sweet, and Beauty of Kent. All the varieties

here named represent good fruit, and such as may be successfully grown in most parts of New Brunswick.

There were also some good samples of Grapes, which had been grown in the open air.

In this department were three young trees two years from the seed, and one from the bud, the last summer's growth being four and a half feet. They were of three varieties, the Alexander, Porter, and Valpy's large Red, a new variety. These trees were grown by Mr. G. J. Thornton, in his nursery at Springfield, York County. Mr. Thornton is giving his attention solely to this subject. He has 3,500 apple trees fit for transplanting, besides pear and other fruit trees. He has filled orders this summer for seven hundred trees, and budded no fewer than 8,500.

Of poultry the entries were not numerous, but they were very good.

Conspicuous in the circle was the Flower Table of Mr. J. W. Brayley, on which were no fewer than thirty-three varieties of house plants, many of them new and strange. We find on our notes a long list of their names; but however expressive they may be, there is little beauty in such words as Lantana Borbonica, or Saligenella denticulata, so we will not transfer them to our columns.

[From which remark we assume that the taste for Botany and scientific Horticulture is not increasing among our neighbours.—ED. J. A.]

Of grains, peas, beans, and grass seeds, the entries were numerous and good. The grain appeared well ripened, even and heavy. We noticed no rye and but two samples of barley, neither was there as much wheat sown as there should have been.

Of Domestic Manufactures there were some good samples. The quality of the homespun was first class. T. F. Baker had some linen and a piece of fancy shirting besides other articles; E. Horton a piece of colored stair carpet, very good; two nice hearth rugs, and several other specimens of handiwork of the good folks at home. Thos. O. Miles and J. Douglas appeared to think that comfort by day is not all that is necessary, and by those nice, heavy blankets, have provided against all cold by night. Somebody exhibited a splendid horse blanket, but the ticket being off we could not tell who. Calvin Goodspeed as usual, sent a nice variety of home manufactured cloth, as also did several others.

Of Carriages, Messrs Edgcomb & Sons and McFarlane & Sons were the only exhibitors. The last firm are new in this branch of business; but if they keep on as they have begun a great reputation awaits them. The same firm also shewed a good assortment of ploughs, stoves and boilers, as well as a horse rake. Messrs.

McCausland & Simmonds displayed some fine patent and enamelled leather, for the manufacture of which they have a high reputation.

Of Honey and Wax, Joseph Heron was the only exhibitor. Of Butter Messrs Pringle, Burpee, Douglas, and Moffat. Of Cheese G. Goodspeed.

#### MR. BLANCHARD'S AYRSHIRES.

Of late years there has been an increasing interest in Ayrshires. As a milk yielding stock these cows are excelled by no others, and their increase in the Province is very much to be desired. The difficulty is that when thorough-bred animals are imported they become scattered, and much of the benefit is lost by their yielding a progeny of a mixed character. Messrs. Esson and Anderson have imported several valuable animals from Scotland, and have succeeded in raising pure stock from them. Mr. Jonathan Blanchard, of Truro, has lately secured a number of pure Ayrshires, and means to take the trouble to keep them pure. He has obtained some of the Gibb stock, imported two years ago, by the Board of Agriculture, and likewise some of the Jardine stock, and as one of the Esson bulls is located at Truro, he has now the material for a fair start. We have no doubt that in the course of a year or two, Mr. Blanchard's herd will attract the attention of our farmers, and we hope that others who are in a favorable position, will be induced to follow his example. We want a few enterprising men of intelligence and capital to enter upon the breeding of pure stock, in order, amongst other things, to kill the prevailing idea that nothing is good that is not brought from some other country.

#### REVIVAL AT CLYDE RIVER.

The Rev. M. G. Henry, of Clyde River, Shelburne County, writes to the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture that an Agricultural Society has been formed in that locality, and that he hopes that the organization will revive an increased interest in agriculture there. Forty three farmers have signed schedule A, and it is promised that their subscriptions will be paid and the necessary attestation forwarded to enable the Society to participate in the Legislative grant for the present year.

#### NEWPORT AGRICULTURAL SOC'Y.

Newport, Oct. 5, 1869.

The following is a list of officers of the Newport Agricultural Society for 1869: George J. Dimock, Pres.; Danl. Cochran

*Vice do;* Eber Sweet, Isaiah Brightman, Henry Cochran, James Sanford, and L. Harvie, *Directors*; Chas. Cochran, *Sec'y* and *Treas.* C. C.

## THE "EARLY ROSE" AT WINDSOR.

October 7, 1869.

I have finished digging my Early Rose; the yield was exactly twenty-five bushels from one half bushel planted, minus three potatoes given away, an increase of over fifty to one. I am happy to say I have been able to keep my English seed barley up to its original weight; a half bushel roughly cleaned weighing 27 lbs. I will give you the result of the Harrison experiment when we dig. I planted one barrel of this variety. Yours, &c.

ALFRED C. THOMAS.

## WHITE CHESTER HOGS WANTED.

Dear Sir,—Can you inform us if the pure bred White Chester Hogs can be got in Halifax county, or in any part of the Province, as the Society is anxious to purchase a few. And oblige yours, &c.

EUGENE P. TROOP,  
*Sec'y. Bridgetown Ag. Society.*

## PRUNING.

Punch's well known advice to people about to marry was, *Don't*. The same advice is now given in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* in reference to pruning. The writer says:—"Soon from every garden may be heard the refrain of an old song with variations:—

Pruner spare this tree,  
Touch not a single bough,  
In youth I cut into thee  
But I'll protect thee now."

## THE RAT-TAILED RADISH.

(RAPHANUS CAUDATUS.)

It is about time this humbug was exploded. About ten years ago a friend of Isaac Buchanan brought from Europe as a very precious thing, the seeds of the Madras Radish, the pods of which were to be good for eating or for pickling. With many thanks to our veteran florist we grew the plant, but could not see that the pods were either eatable or pickleable. Later, the *Raphanus caudatus* came out, and ten seeds were sold (we think) for twenty-five cents,—it may have been more. This year we grew it, giving it the best possible treatment. It gave a generous supply of pods, something longer perhaps, than our old Madras radish. The English papers had lauded the pods of this radish as something excellent when cooked and treated with drawn

butter, in the same way as asparagus. We had a guest from the city, and wished to treat him to a novelty, so the rat-tails were pickled and nicely served. We never ate boiled rat-tails, but have no doubt that they would be preferable to the pods of this rat-tail radish, albeit some of them reached the prescribed length of eighteen inches. Neither did we ever eat boiled shoestrings eaten with drawn butter, but in trying the *Raphanus caudatus* we think we got a good idea of them. It was noticed that no one asked to be helped the second time.

[It is obvious that the Editor of the *Agriculturist*, from which we extract the above effusion, does not know how to eat the Rat Tailed Radish. There is no greater delicacy than this in the way of salad, if eaten when freshly picked; but to boil the tails and smear them with drawn butter! He might as well boil the covers of his *Agriculturist* in petroleum and expect his friend to relish the dish. It has taken the Bluenoses thirty years to learn to eat Tomatoes, and many still turn up their noses at them. So with Rat Tails. The time will come when they will be grown in every garden.—Ed. J. A.]

## APPARATUS FOR THE INSTANTANEOUS MANUFACTURE OF HAY.

The new method of converting newly cut grass into hay in wet weather, in the short space of ten minutes, is not a matter to be lost sight of in a country that has dripping clouds. It appears from an article in the *Illustrated London News* of 2nd inst., that the Society of Arts have given a prize of 50 guineas and a gold medal to the discoverer of the best machine for drying hay and corn. The mechanism is very simple and uncostly.

## NOVA SCOTIA INSTITUTE OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

This Institution held its annual meeting on 13th Oct., in the Institute Chamber, Old Province Building, when the following named gentlemen were elected officers:—*Pres.*, J. M. Jones, Esq.; *Vice Pres.*, Dr. B. Gilpin; *Treas.*, W. C. Silver, Esq.; *Hon'y. Sec'y.*, W. Gosip, Esq.; *Council*, Prof. Dr. Lawson, F. Allison, Esq., Dr. DeWolfe, T. F. Knight, Esq., J. Rutherford, Esq., R. G. Haliburton, Esq., J. Bell, Esq., P. S. Hamilton, Esq.

Two of the members having received an equal number of votes for the office of second Vice-President, the election to that position was deferred till next meeting.

We understand that several papers of importance are in course of preparation by the members, and that the meetings this winter are likely to be of unusual interest. Several new members were proposed and seconded. The Institute meets on the second Monday of every month, at 8 o'clock, p. m. Through the energy of the President and Honorary Secretary, the volume of Transactions for the past session is already far advanced towards publication.

## THE NEW ENGLAND FAIR.

We find in the *Toronto Globe* the following account of the New England Fair:—

The annual agricultural fair of the New England States was held at Portland during the second week in September, and so far as the exhibition was concerned was a success. The tornado which committed such havoc at the east occurred during the fair, tore down many of the buildings, and did much damage. The show of cattle at this fair was reported by the press as being very good, and especially so as regards Ayrshire and Jersey cattle. A gentleman who had gone to Scotland to purchase the best herd of Ayrshires he could find, purchased his whole herd of cows, and did not purchase any bulls, because he did not see one that was superior to those he could find now at home. Mr. Cochran, of Compton, Quebec, showed some of his magnificent Short-horns, which elicited the greatest admiration. The Devons were not present in such numbers as the Short-horns and the Ayrshires, while the Herefords were represented by but two entries. Mr. Chenery, the importer of the Dutch or Holstein cattle, made a very imposing exhibition of his herd, the only one in the country. [We think this is a mistake, as Mr. Carlos Pierce, if not others, on the Canadian frontier, had not very long ago a herd of these Dutch cattle.—Ed. J. A.] One exhibitor showed

a few specimens of the diminutive Kerry cattle. Among the vegetables, the Early Rose potato occupied a prominent position.

#### DRAINING LARGE SWAMPS.

Those of our readers whose farms run on to large swamps, which can be drained only by the concurrent action of all their proprietors, will be interested to know what is being done on a similar swamp near New York. The swamp is a long and narrow one, and winding through it in the most tortuous course is a brook of considerable size, which, owing to its many curves, to the obstruction of trees that have fallen into it, and to a profuse growth of water-cresses, is always so sluggish that at ordinary stages of the water it runs bank-full; and after heavy rains, the whole swamp is overflowed and is kept constantly in such a condition as to be worthless even for pasture. The plan for its improvement consists chiefly in a project for straightening and deepening the course of the brook. It is estimated that by striking a bee-line from the lower to the upper end of the swamp the length of the stream will be reduced more than one-half; and it is in contemplation to make the excavation to the depth of four feet below the level of the banks, at which depth, almost throughout the whole course, the bottom of the brook will be not in muck, but in hard subsoil. In order to prevent the washing away of the banks, the bottom of the brook will be but three feet wide, the width at the surface being fourteen feet. This will give a very gradual slope, to be sodded immediately, and on which grass will grow down to the ordinary level of the water.

At the upper end of the cutting a pond of considerable size is to be made, with a sluice-way through the bottom of its dam communicating directly with the mouth of the brook. Ordinarily this pond will be full, and its overflow will pass through a curved wooden "shute" by a very easy descent to the level of the bottom of the new ditch; so that there will be no danger of the cutting away of either the bottom or the sides by the force of the water. The silt and *detritus* washed during autumn and spring freshets from the mountain regions above, will be largely deposited in the pond, and during the driest seasons of the year the gate in the sluice-way will be opened, drawing the water from the pond, and allowing the deposit to be removed. This removal will restore the capacity of the pond to the original point, and will yield a valuable fertilizer. As the work is to be undertaken by the joint action of the riparian owners, the articles of association require that no open ditch shall be cut through the banks for the draining of the

adjoining lands; but all side drains, whether they be opened or covered, will be taken into the brook through covered passages, curving towards the outlet of the ditch or down stream and delivering on a level with its bottom, so that instead of cutting away the sides or leaving rough edges against which the stream or the ditch itself could take effect, they will add to the velocity of the stream while they add to its volume, and will obviate the most serious objection to such improvements as ordinarily made.—*Agriculturist*.

#### CALLA ÆTHIOPICA.

The Æthiopian Lily or Calla is a great favourite with Window Gardeners. It will stand all the excessive watering and other cruel kindnesses to which plants are usually subjected in their window prisons; it is an elegant and showy plant when in flower, and even the green leaves have a refreshing look of robust health, pleasing to contemplate. The *Gardener's Monthly* for October offers some valuable suggestions in regard to the successful management of this favorite plant:—

"It is a native of the lower Nile regions and will not endure frost. It does not require great heat, however, as it will live out all winter under water in ponds, where the water is deep enough for the frost not to reach it. Many persons use the plant for aquariums, but an idea prevails that it is not healthy for fish in such water. Its great value is for winter blooming in windows and greenhouses during winter. It does best in very rich soil in a tolerably large pot—about ten inches—and must have abundance of water while growing. It likes light, but not the brightest light. About June the leaves die away, and the roots may be suffered to get nearly dry. Most people set them away under the shade of a tree or fence, letting them take their chance

#### WHEN WILL TOP-DRESSING PAY?

We think always, when we have any fertilizer to spread upon the mowing. Of course we must not rob the plowed fields, but every thrifty farmer can afford to do something for his meadows every year. Material for top-dressing is by no means confined to barn-yard manure. The wash of roads is very good, and this can sometimes be gathered in large quantities in the hollows. The subsoil of clay lands produces very marked effects upon gravelly meadows. Peat, taken from near the surface and weathered one winter, will sometimes double the grass crop. Ashes, the waste of factories, lime, gas-lime, sea-mud, rock-weed, kelp, sea-mosses, and eel-grass, all pay well for top-dressing. On almost all farms near cities it pays well to sell hay, and there is no objection to keeping land in meadow and selling the crop as long as one will keep it up to a production of three tons to the acre by using fertilizers. These farmers are favorably situated for purchasing fertilizers. They can generally get stable manure and night-soil on very favorable terms, and have but a short distance to carry it. With top-dressing, we have no doubt that meadows may be kept indefinitely in grass. Without it, most lands will run out in a few years, and must be plowed to make them profitable. As to the best time for applying manure, there is probably much less choice than most farmers think. Well-rotted compost can be safely put on at any time. Fresh stable manure and coarse barn-yard manure we prefer to apply in the fall. It will tell more upon the grass of next season than if spread the following spring. There is probably some loss of ammonia if green manure is applied in the summer, but we do not hesitate to apply all other manures to grass at any time when it is most convenient to cart them.—*Am. Agriculturist*.

#### TETOFSKY.

The new Russian apple, the 'Tetofsky,' is likely to be a great boon to the fruit growers of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Northern Iowa. A correspondent of the *Iowa Homestead* says: "It is a great prize to us of the far Northwest. It is very early (a trifle earlier than Red Astrachan), good size, always fair, a very young bearer, and enormously productive. It is also at the very head of the list for hardiness, ranking with the Siberian crabs and Duchess of Oldenburg. In one respect, I consider myself very fortunate in having this comparatively new and rare sort in bearing in a situation so exposed as to thoroughly test its many good qualities."

In his "American Pomology," Dr. Warder says of this apple:

"This little foreigner was brought from Russia, and seems as well adapted to our climate and tastes as are its companions from the same regions.

Tree vigorous, hardy, productive, upright; leaves broad, pale or light green.

Fruit small to medium, round, flattened somewhat conic, angular, surface smooth, yellow, striped, splashed carmine, white bloom. Basin shallow, folded; eye large closed. Cavity wide, wavy, or deep, acute, stem short, yellow.

Core large, closed clasping; seeds numerous, plump, brown. Flesh yellowish white, breaking, fine grained, juicy; flavor acid; quality good; use, market or kitchen; season, June, July—before Early Harvest.—*Western Rural.*

#### HOW TO KEEP PASTURES IN GOOD CONDITION.

It is with a pasture as with a man, the income must be greater than the expenses or it grows poor. Crops are the expenses. It is quite possible to make the surface of any soil unproductive and unprofitable, by carrying off more than is put on. Pasturing with cows that are yarded at night does this. Sheep or bees that remain upon the land, on the contrary, return more than an equivalent in manure, and keep the land improving. Where plaster meets a want of the soil it may be kept improving by sowing broadcast a bushel and a half to the acre every spring, and feeding off the grass. Many farms in the grazing districts in the interior are kept up mainly by plaster and feeding. Some of them will carry a bullock to the acre. Other lands need lime, and the lime brings in clover, and this plant, by the large drafts it makes upon the subsoil and the atmosphere, always improves the pasture. In other districts ashes are accessible at reasonable rates, and they are always a reliable top-dressing. The effects are visible in some soils in increased crops of grass for twenty years. Cheap ashes will keep up any pasture, pay their cost, and leave a profit. So will home made compost, if the waters of a brook can be turned into a pasture, nothing more will be needed to keep it in good condition. Changing soils oftentimes has a wonderful influence. Sometimes on the same field of twenty acres there will be sandy or gravelly knolls nearly bare of vegetation, and hard clay or muck in swales. A top dressing of the sand would pay on the swales, and nothing could be better for the knolls than the muck or clay. Our old pastures to be kept profitable, must have something done for them. It will not pay to devote ten acres to a single cow.—*Am. Agriculturist.*

#### HEALTH, COMFORT AND BEAUTY.

**LADY'S BREAD.**—A lady wishing to improve her form and flesh, should eat the following bread:—take half wheat and half rice flour (rice contains the greatest amount and finest quality of starch.) Diffuse the yeast cells in milk instead of water; before baking add butter and salt. No food can supersede this bread for the above purpose.

All persons suffering from affections of the liver should use not too finely bolted rye flour in preference to wheat. As the digestion improves, wheat flour may be mixed with the rye. Such bread should be thoroughly baked, and not eaten before it is two days old. More salt should be added than is ordinarily necessary.

**STUDENT'S BREAD.**—All students and intellectually engaged persons, with perfect digestion, should eat wheat bread of such flour as has the strongest and richest flavour (gluten and gum.)

**PULMONARY CONSUMPTION BREAD.**—Under certain circumstances of the body, additions of oatmeal, or flour made of peas or lentils, would be of advantage. Especially is this the case in pulmonary consumption; for the sake of the lime which oats, lentils, and peas contain more than other grains. Bread for consumption should be made of finely bolted rye flour, with the addition of some finely bolted (dry) oatmeal or lentils; some yeast dissolved in water, half water and milk, or pure milk, according to the digestive power of the patient; afterwards some fresh butter and salt should be added. Such bread contains the greatest amount of sulphur, lime, magnesia, and silex. In consumption these minerals are used in the body to calcify those diseased cells which cannot be expelled, thus rendering them harmless to the organism.

**FAT MAN'S BREAD.**—A fat man wishing to have bread to produce the least fat, should eat the following bread:—Take the remains of the flour which is left after bolting, consisting principally of cellulose and gluten; use sour leaven instead of yeast; let the dough stand longer than for the other bread, and bake well. Such bread has a very agreeable odor; its taste, when properly made, indicates a tendency to acidity (lactic acid); it digests very slowly, and contains no fat rendering material, and is very healthy.—*Dr. C. Bath, in Good Health.*

#### SMALL TALK—FLYING STRAWS.

The Clover seed crop is blighted in England, foreign growths are under average, and clover seed will be dear next spring.—Four thousand persons visited the American Pomological Society's Exhibition at Philadelphia in one day. Next meet is to take place at Richmond.

—The Agricultural Society at Fish Pools has revived with 44 members.—Bran is found to contain nearly two per cent of phosphoric acid, whilst flour contains less than one per cent; soluble phosphates in Bran, one and a quarter per cent; in flour less than a tenth; hence the value of brown bread as food for children, phosphates being essential to the formation of bone and blood.—The Dutch method of planting live fences along the shore line to prevent the encroachment of the sea has been suggested as applicable to the Acadian marshes.—In New Hampshire the beautiful climbing fern *Lygodium palmatum* (which is not rare, however, in more southern States.) is protected by an Act of the Legislature, a penalty of five dollars being imposed upon those who wantonly destroy it.—The Vaporers Caterpillars have been unusually destructive this season in England and the United States, as well as in Nova Scotia. There are myriads of their eggs sticking to every fence in Halifax.—The Chicago market is now supplied with California fruit, which occupies five days on the journey, and pays freight at the rate of \$940.00, per car load.—Our crop of wild mushrooms came this season in October instead of August.—The average price of butcher's meat in Russia is four copecks, or a penny per pound.—A correspondent of the *Agricultural Gazette* advocates the increase of frogs as pasturage for the lily white ducks; it is, he says, the only way in which duck rearing can be made profitable.—The harvest weather has been unfavorable in many parts of England.—The instruction of women in science is now being attempted at South Kensington, with every appliance to command success; Professors Huxley, Guthrie, and Oliver are to commence courses of lectures on Natural Science in November. Several Duchesses, Countesses, Marchionesses, and other ladies of the creation form the working committee.—Messrs. Walcott & Campbell of New York State, have purchased a Booth Short Horned Heifer, Bride of the Vale, for one thousand guineas in England.—The new Japanese Virginian Creeper is said to be perfectly hardy, and a great beauty.—The Royal Horticultural Society of London, held a "Fungus Meeting" on the 5th October, and no doubt ate toad stools till their stomachs ached. The principal complaints made in a leading article in the *Gardener's Chronicle* are that there was too much butter (a very likely thing), and the plates were cold.—At the Philadelphia Agricultural Festival, an officer of the Washington Agricultural Department, complained that the produce that they were most in want of was the produce of the Mint Plant, and appealed to legislators to recollect that the Mint and the Legislature were of no use without corn and potatoes.—A new

apple—the Kansas Queen—shown at the Philadelphia Congress is described as a handsome bright red apple of even size, and free from small or defective fruit.—A stock company has been formed at Hartford, Connecticut, for manufacturing Moule's earth closets or commodes. The earth closet resembles a high backed chair or box, and takes the place of the common water closet, but at greatly reduced cost, and free from the inconvenience of freezing in winter, as there are no water pipes. Neither is it in any way offensive in warm weather. After being used, the pulling of the handle discharges into the closet a pint of dry earth, entirely preventing any effluvia. The hopper attached to the back part of the closet, contains earth for twenty-five times. Then the scuttle below, containing the dirt, may be taken away, or it may be repeatedly used. Several convenient kinds of dirt may be used, such as peat, coal ashes, clay loam, but neither sand nor wood ashes would be desirable. Whatever material is used should be perfectly dry, as well as thoroughly pulverized.—The editor of the *Agricultural Gazette* offers some acceptable remarks on the use of bones on meadow land, in reply to an enquiry of a correspondent: "What effect half-inch bones would have on meadow land,—light red land not sandy? And what will be the proper quantity per acre, and time for applying?" The reply is: "Local experience is the best guide; in the absence of this advantage try small experiments. We say this because, while in Cheshire the grass will be doubled and tripled in quantity, the cows will eat the grass which has been "boned" into the earth, leaving any "unboned" part of a meadow long and untouched. But while this is so, in some parts of the country, as in Essex, particularly near London, a dressing of bone has little or no effect in increasing the fertility of the pasturage. In Cheshire, however, a quarter of a ton of half-inch raw bone is put on per acre, which lasts, it is calculated, seven years. The first year its effects are scarcely seen; the second year the grass greatly improves; in the third year the bone takes full effect, when it gradually decreases in influence, until it is exhausted at the end of the sixth or seventh year. It will be seen by this that the time of application is unimportant, with this exception; if the soil is deficient in phosphates, the sooner it is supplied in the form of bone the better. We may add that, from the experience of Cheshire men, feeding pastures with cows for making cheese exhausts the soil per annum as nearly as possible of the amount of phosphates contained in 1 cwt. of raw bone. We wish some of our Nova Scotia farmers who have been using the products of Stanford's Bone Mill, would give us the results of their experiments.

## PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The *Gardeners' Monthly*, Oct. Philadelphia, \$2.00 per annum. The best of its kind.

*Journal de l'instruction publique*, Quebec.

The *Church Herald*, Oct. 7, Toronto. A new and well conducted weekly paper of Church news.

The *Abstainer*, Oct 20. Weekly \$2.00 per annum.

The *Globe*, Toronto. Weekly, with Agricultural supplement. Should be taken by all our farmers.

The *Stock Journal*.

*Colonial Farmer*. Weekly. Fredericton. This Agricultural paper continues to improve.

**EARLY ROSE POTATOES IN ENGLAND.**—It has long been known to Americans, that European varieties of Potatoes are worthless when introduced into America and Americans of no account when grown in Europe. Our English friends seem totally ignorant of this fact, as there are loud complaints of the Early Rose being a swindle. It does not prove as good there in some cases as their poorest varieties.—*Monthly*.

**MOOSE.**—Several large Moose have recently been shot at St. Mary's, and some of the meat brought to New Glasgow sold readily. One large fellow, believed to be about ten years old, was pierced with two bullets before he was killed. The head and antlers may be seen at Jackson's drug store. The young Moose calf brought to town last week has been purchased by Mr. Jackson. It has become quite tame and is thriving well.—*Eastern Chronicle*.

**EXHIBITIONS.**—The Egerton Agricultural Society held an Industrial Exhibition at Fish Pools on Tuesday, October 12th; and Pictou Agricultural Society a similar Exhibition at Durham on Tuesday, October 19th. We hope to receive some account of these Exhibitions for the information of our readers.

**CALIFORNIA FRUIT.**—Dr. Streuzel, of Martinez, California, through Col. Warren, of the *California Farmer*, contributed a beautiful collection of California fruit, to the late Philadelphia Festival. The following are the measurements of some of the pears in circumference, Flemish Beauty, 13 inches; Beurre Diel 11½; Dix, 10; E. Beurre, 12; Beurre d'Arenberg, 12; Winter Nelis, 9½; Seckel, 8; Vicar of Wakefield, 13½ by 11 long; Glout Morceau, 10½; Duchess

d'Angouleme, 12½; Calabasse Bosc, 11; "Black Winchester," 13½; Swann's Orange, 12½; Steven's Genesee, 11½.—*Monthly*.

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